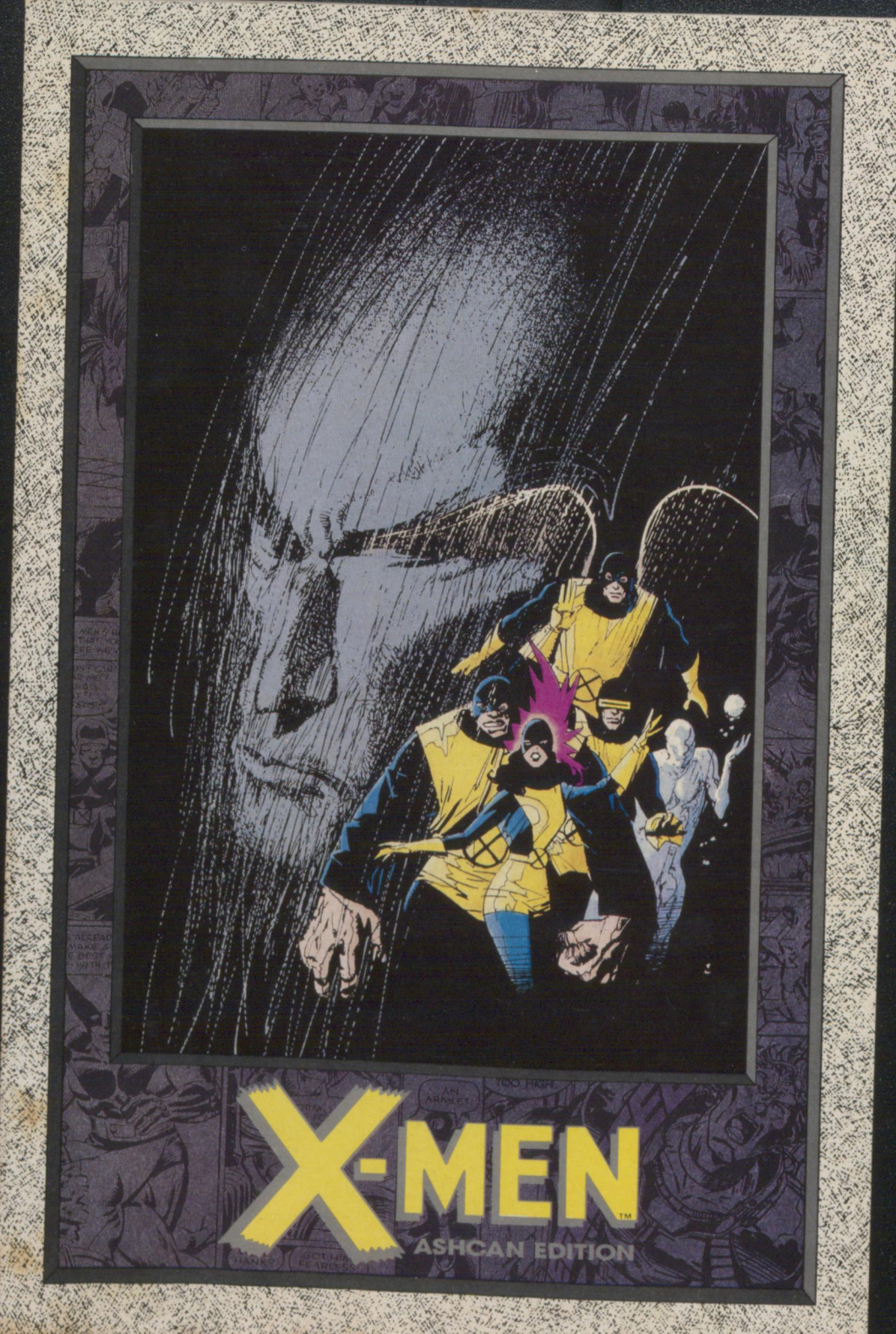
X-MEN
ASHCAN EDITION

IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES

DELMORE SCHANGO

HATE. IT'S NOT A WORD WE LIKE TO HEAR. IT'S A WORD SOME WOULD LIKE TO PRETEND DOESN'T EXIST-BUT NOT READERS OF THE X-MEN.

IN THE X-MEN, HATE BECOMES ANOTHER WORD FOR THE ANTI-MUTANT BIGOTRY THAT REARS ITS UGLY HEAD IN ALMOST EVERY ISSUE. IT'S HATE THAT THE X-MEN FIGHT, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LIVE WHAT THEY BELIEVE ARE NORMAL LIVES. AND IN LIGHT OF THAT, THE WORLD LOVES THESE CHARACTERS. THEY LOVE PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS. THEY LOVE THE DANGER ROOM. THEY LOVE THE X-MEN'S ENMIES-MAGNETO, SABRETOOTH, THE SENTINELS.

AND PERHAPS THAT'S WHY WE LOVE THE X-MEN, THE TEAM SWORN TO PROTECT A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM. THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THEM. SOMETHING THAT TOUCHES US MORE THAN ANY OTHER COMIC. SOMETHING THAT GIVES US HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE. SOMETHING REAL.

BOB HARRAS
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR.

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MY NAME IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.
AND THOSE MUTANTS WHO FOLLOW ME AND FIGHT FOR PEACE ARE THE X-MEN.
FOOLS! I CAN DEFEAT ANY FOE... NO MATTER HOW SUPERHUMAN HE MAY BE!
I STARTED THE CHARLES XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS TO TRAIN MUTANTS TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, AND TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM THOSE WHOSE FEAR AND HATRED THREATENED THE PEACE AND HAPPINESS OF OUR PLANET. MY FIRST STUDENTS WERE CYCLOPS, BEAST, ICEMAN, ANGEL AND MARVEL GIRL.
BUT THEIR LESSONS WERE BARELY BEGUN WHEN WE FACED OUR FIRST THREAT--MAGNETO, MASTER OF MAGNETISM.
BUT AFTER HIS FIRST DEFEAT, MAGNETO FORMED THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, A DARKER VERSION OF MY X-MEN. WE BATTLED MANY OTHER STRANGE AND POWERFUL MENACES.
WITH THE USE OF THE MUTANT-DETECTING CEREBRO, A COMPUTER OF MY DESIGN, WE DISCOVERED MANY MORE FRIENDS AND FOES.
MY HALF-BROTHER, THE UNSTOPPABLE JUGGERNAUT, WAS ONE OF THE FOES.
I REALIZED THAT MUTANTS AND HUMANS WOULD NEED TO LEARN TO TRUST EACH OTHER IF THEY WERE TO LIVE TOGETHER. I KNEW MANY INDIVIDUALS--HUMAN AND MUTANT--WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO GIVE UP THEIR HATE, THEIR FEAR.
ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER COULD WE OVERCOME HATE AND FEAR. ONLY BY COMBINING ALL OUR TALENTS COULD WE CHANGE THE WORLD AND MAKE IT A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE, OF ANY RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, OR GENETIC STRUCTURE.
THERE WERE ALWAYS OTHERS--HUMANS AS WELL AS MUTANTS--WHO DID NOT SHARE MY DREAM.

AN ANTHROPOLOGIST NAMED *BOLIVAR TRASK* SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE "*MUTANT MENACE*". AND, SEEMINGLY OVERNIGHT, THE X-MEN BECAME VIRTUAL PUBLIC ENEMIES. TRASK HAD CREATED GIANT ROBOTIC *SENTINELS* TO COMBAT THIS "*MENACE*". BUT THINGS QUICKLY GOT OUT OF HAND. INSTEAD OF PROTECTING HUMANITY, THE SENTINELS -- LED BY THEIR *MASTER MOLD* -- SET OUT TO CONQUER IT.
LOOKING BACK ON THOSE DAYS, IT SEEMS LIKE WE WERE CONSTANTLY FIGHTING SOME NEW MUTANT MENACE OR SUPER-VILLAIN.
TRASK SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO DESTROY HIS REBELLIOUS CREATIONS--AND THAT EPIC BATTLE ALMOST KILLED *ICEMAN* AS WELL.
THE BATTLES FORGED MY X-MEN INTO A *TEAM*. THEY GREW FROM UNTRAINED STUDENTS INTO A MIGHTY FORCE FOR *GOOD*. AT A COST, THOUGH--THEY HAD NO TIME FOR *NORMAL* LIVES.

WHILE OTHER TEEN-AGERS FROLICKED AND FELL IN LOVE, THE X-MEN FOUGHT FOR *JUSTICE*.
AND THEN, ONE DAY, THEY LEFT FOR A MISSION... AND ONLY CYCLOPS RETURNED.

I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RECRUIT *NEW* X-MEN.

KURT WAGNER--*NIGHTCRAWLER*-- AGILE AS THE BEAST AND POSSESSING THE ABILITY TO TELEPORT. *ORORO*--*STORM*-- AN ELEMENTAL, ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER. *PETER RASPUTIN*--*COLOSSUS*-- ABLE TO TRANSFORM HIS BODY INTO NEAR-INVULNERABLE ORGANIC STEEL. *JOHN PROUDSTAR*-- *THUNDERBIRD*--FAST, STRONG, AGILE, A SUPER-TRACKER.

WOLVERINE-- WITH THE HYPER-SENSES OF AN ANIMAL, PLUS AN UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM SKELETON AND CLAWS. *SEAN CASSIDY*--*BANSHEE*-- MASTER OF THE SONIC SCREAM. AND *SUNFIRE*-- ABLE TO GENERATE NUCLEAR FIREBOLTS.

THE *NEW* TEAM'S FIRST MISSION WAS TO RESCUE THE OLD FROM THE CLUTCHES OF A LIVING ISLAND--

--A MUTANT COLONY CREATURE THAT CALLED ITSELF *KRAKOA*.

THINGS WERE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL FOR THE X-MEN AFTER THAT. BUT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.

THE FORCES OF *HATE* NEVER REST.

PREPARE TO FACE YOUR *DOOM*, MUTANTS--

--FOR THE *SENTINELS HAVE RETURNED!*

MY X-MEN DESTROYED THE NEO-SENTINELS IN OUTER SPACE, BUT OUR SHUTTLE WAS BOMBARDED WITH RADIATION. THE X-MEN WERE SAFE IN AN ANTI-RADIATION CELL, BUT JEAN GREY, MARVEL GIRL, WAS ON THE UNPROTECTED FLIGHT DECK.

NOTHING *HUMAN* COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT RADIATION.

NOTHING REMOTELY HUMAN *DID*.

HEAR ME, X-MEN!

NO LONGER AM I THE WOMAN YOU *KNEW!*

I AM *FIRE!* AND *LIFE INCARNATE!* NOW AND FOREVER--

--I AM phœnix!

MORE ADVENTURES FOLLOWED...

WE HELPED *KA-ZAR* SAVE THE SAVAGE LAND. HELPED *SUNFIRE* SAVE JAPAN. AND MET THE CANADIAN SUPER-HERO GROUP *ALPHA FLIGHT.*

THEN, I WAS CONTACTED BY A PRINCESS OF THE ALIEN *SHI'AR EMPIRE*--

--LILANDRA.

WE HELPED END THEIR CIVIL WAR--AND JEAN GREY, NOW CALLED *PHOENIX*, SAVED THE UNIVERSE IN THE PROCESS. BUT SHE BECAME TOO POWERFUL, AND ALSO INADVERTENTLY *WIPED OUT* AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM.

LILANDRA DECIDED TO *ELIMINATE* PHOENIX FOR THE SAFETY OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHEN HER IMPERIAL GUARD FAILED JEAN FINISHED THE JOB HERSELF.

SCOTT!

JEAN!

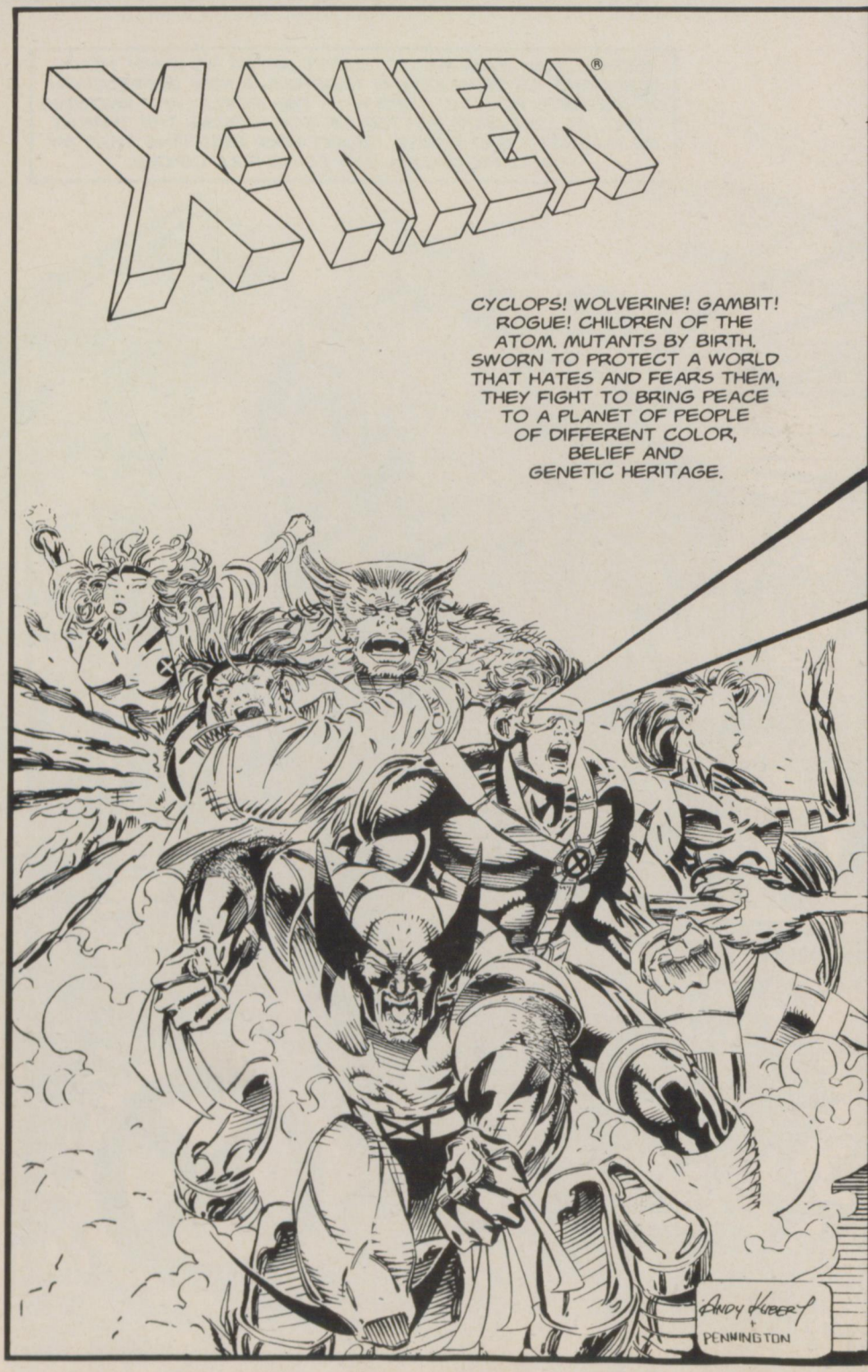
TIME CHANGES ALL OF US. CYCLOPS WAS DEVASTATED BY THE DEATH OF HIS LOVE, JEAN. *STORM* BECAME LEADER OF THE X-MEN.
NEW MUTANTS JOINED THE TEAM.
ROGUE. PSYLOCKE. GAMBIT. EACH WITH A MYSTERIOUS PAST.
THE EVIL APOCALYPSE CHANGED *ANGEL* INTO *ARCHANGEL*.
BISHOP, AN X-MAN FROM THE *FUTURE*, JOINED OUR RANKS.
JUBILEE BROUGHT BACK THE YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE TO THE X-MEN, WHILE *BEAST* AND *CYCLOPS* RETURNED TO PROVIDE THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ORIGINAL TEAM.
WE WERE COMPLETE. EVEN JEAN HAD MIRACULOUSLY RETURNED TO US. BUT MY THOUGHTS WERE FILLED WITH DREAD. BECAUSE MAGNETO HAD RETURNED AS WELL.

THIS TIME, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM USED HIS POWER TO EXTRACT WOLVERINE'S ADAMANTIUM SKELETON, LEAVING LOGAN A BROKEN MAN.

SHREKKTT

BUT IN MAGNETO'S SAVAGE ATTACK, I BROKE AS WELL. AND VOWED THAT MAGNUS WOULD NEVER AGAIN HARM THOSE I LOVED.

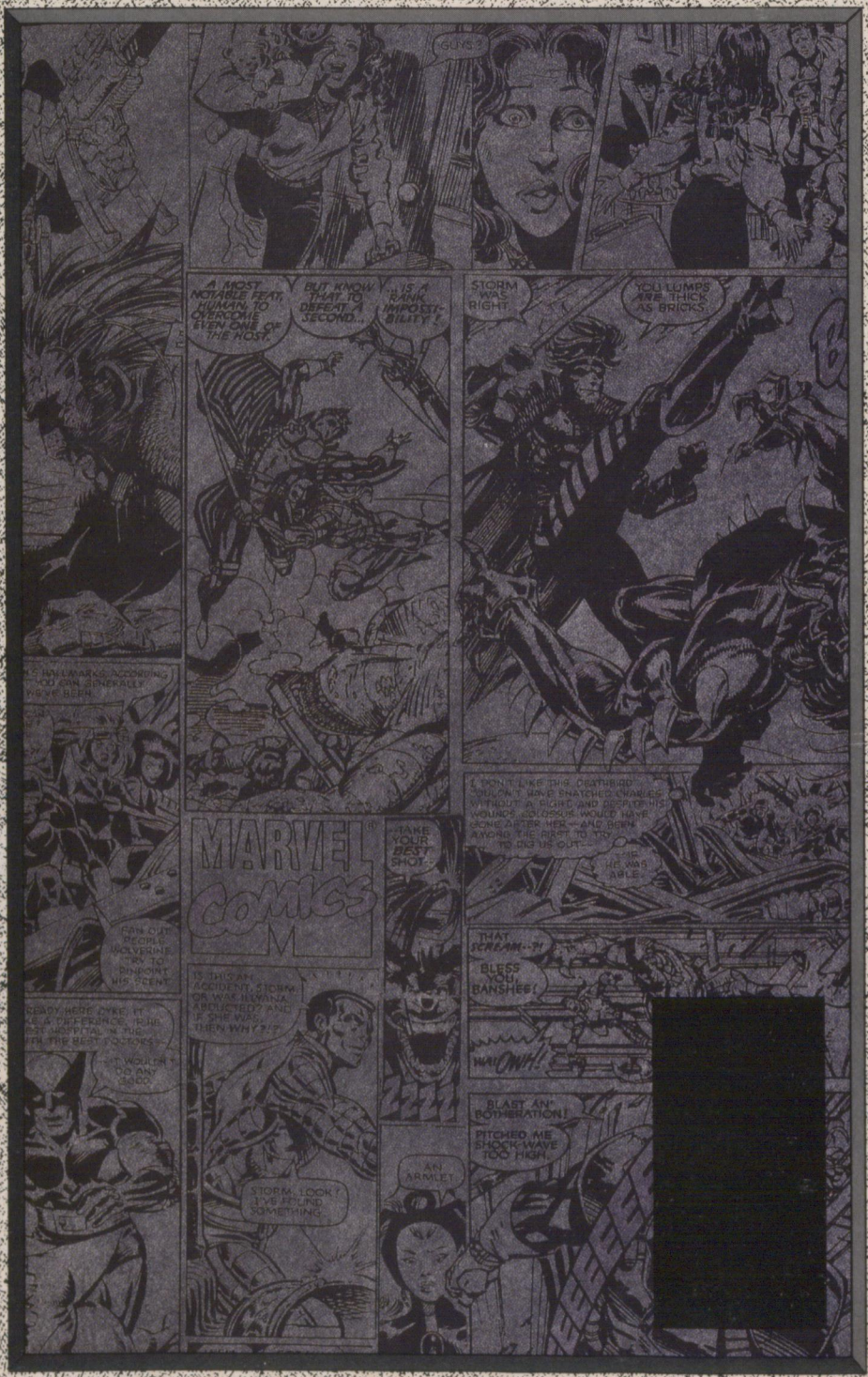
SEEING JEAN MARRIED TO SCOTT AFTER SO MANY YEARS, WATCHING AS SEAN BEGAN TEACHING A NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS HOW TO COPE WITH THE WORLD, AND KNOWING THAT, AT LAST, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, THE THREAT OF MAGNETO HAD ENDED, I CAN'T HELP BELIEVING THAT MY X-MEN, MY DREAM...HAD COME FULL CIRCLE.


X-MEN®
CYCLOPS! WOLVERINE! GAMBIT! ROGUE! CHILDREN OF THE ATOM. MUTANTS BY BIRTH. SWORN TO PROTECT A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM, THEY FIGHT TO BRING PEACE TO A PLANET OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT COLOR, BELIEF AND GENETIC HERITAGE.
ANDY KUBERT + PENNINGTON

X-FACTOR
HAVOK! POLARIS! RANDOM! RAHNE! FORMED BY THE ORIGINAL X-MEN, X-FACTOR HAS TAKEN THE PLACE OF FREEDOM FORCE, BECOMING A UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONED TEAM OF MUTANTS WHO TROUBLE-SHOOT THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS AROUND THE WORLD. THEY HOPE THAT THE GOOD THEY DO WILL SLOW THE TIDE OF ANTI-MUTANT BIGOTRY ENCROUCHING UPON THEIR WORLD.

CANNONBALL! BOOMER! SIRYN! WARPATH! UNDER THE MILITARY PROWESS OF CYCLOPS' SON, CABLE, THE SECOND GENERATION OF MUTANTS FIGHT TO TRANSFORM THEIR WORLD'S BIGOTRY AGAINST MUTANTS INTO ACCEPTANCE ....BY FORCE WHEN NECESSARY.
X-FORCE

EXCALIBUR®
NIGHTCRAWLER! KITTY PRYDE! DAYTRIPPER! BRITANIC! TAPESTRY! OFF THE COAST OF SCOTLAND LIES MUIR ISLAND, HOME AND LABORATORY OF THE EUROPEAN-BASED EXCALIBUR. AND WHILE EXCALIBUR DEFENDS ITSELF FROM THE ATTACKS OF EVIL MUTANTS, RESIDENT SCIENTISTS MOIRA MACTAGGERT AND THE RECENTLY ARRIVED CHARLES XAVIER WORK ROUND THE CLOCK TO DISCOVER A CURE FOR THE LEGACY VIRUS, A TERMINAL DISEASE ATTACKING THE MUTANT GENE ...WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.


GUYS?
A MOST NOTABLE FEAT, HUMAN TO OVERCOME EVEN ONE OF THE HOST.
BUT KNOW YE TO DEFEAT A SECOND... IS A MATTER OF IMPOSSIBILITY!
STORM WAS RIGHT.
YOU LUMPS ARE THICK AS BRICKS.
MARVEL COMICS
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.
THAT SCREAM--!!
BLESS YOU, BANSHEE!
HAH! OWH!
BLAST AN' BOTHERATION!
PITCHED ME SHOCK-WAVE TOO HIGH.
AN ARMLET
STORM. LOOK! I'VE FOUND SOMETHING.
IS THIS AN ACCIDENT, STORM? OR WAS HEVANA TORTURED AND IF SHE WAS, THEN WHY?